

PATENT APPLICATION**REMARKS**

Claims 49-53 were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph and the rejection was traversed by Applicants' in their response of October 30, 2000. In order to place the claims in better condition for allowance or appeal, Applicants have amended Claims 49, 51, 52 and 53. It is believed that the amendments do not introduce new matter nor raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search.

Applicants have cancelled Claim 50 without prejudice and reserve the right to pursue claims of corresponding subject matter in continuing applications.

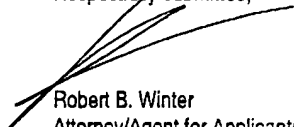
Applicants have added new claim 54 which recites a nucleic acid encoding a deletion of the amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 9B (SEQ ID NO:5) wherein the deletion comprises the removal of the amino terminal leader sequence. Support for the claim is found at p. 15, lines 1-2 of the specification. It is believed that the new claim does not introduce new matter nor raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search.

Applicants request entry of the amendments.

**CONCLUSION**

Upon entry of the amendments, Claims 49 and 51-54 are in condition for allowance and an early notice thereof is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Robert B. Winter  
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)  
Registration No.: 34,458  
Phone: (805) 447-2425  
Date: December 13, 2000

Please send all future correspondence to:

U.S. Patent Operations/RBW  
Dept. 4300, M/S 27-4-A  
AMGEN INC.  
One Amgen Center Drive  
Thousand Oaks, California 91320-1799